

**The James Madison Legacy Project:
Professional Development for Teachers of Civics and Government**

Abstract: The James Madison Legacy Project is a nationwide program of the Center for Civic Education intended to (1) increase the number of highly effective teachers of high-need students through the professional development (PD) of 2,250 teachers, (2) increase the achievement of at least 225,000 students in attaining state standards in civics and government, (3) serve the self-identified PD needs of a minimum of more than 500 participating schools with significant concentrations of high-need students in forty-six states and the District of Columbia, and (4) evaluate the relative effectiveness of the Center's research-validated traditional We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution PD model enhanced with online resources and a new blended-learning variation of the traditional model that also uses online resources.

The evaluation will include a rigorous quasi-experimental study using multiple means to determine the relative effectiveness of the two PD models on teachers' and students' knowledge, skills, and dispositions and students' achievement of state standards.

The evaluation will also focus upon identifying the most efficient means of making low-cost, but effective PD in civics and government widely available in the most accessible and useful formats. The Center will then seek to foster the implementation of such PD through its nationwide network of affiliated organizations and promote its expansion and sustainability.

The Center's traditional We the People PD model and classroom curricular program meet the moderate evidence of effectiveness standard of Absolute Priority 1. The PD program meets the What Works Clearinghouse strong evidence of effectiveness standard of Competitive Preference Priority 1. The project will directly address Absolute Priority 3 and Competitive Preference Priorities 2 and 4.

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